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Prologue

I never thought I would see the day you went to Dovewing. I didn't mind at first, but after a while I started feeling jealous. I never felt this way about any cat before, but you caught my attention for a while. It looked as if you felt the same way, but then you just went to Dovewing. It looked like you just gave up. Okay, I know I acted like a total piece of fox-dung to you, but I didn't mean to.

Chapter 1

"Thornclaw! Lionblaze! Ivypool! You're on patrol." Sighing, I stretch and pad out into the half-empty clearing, heading for Lionblaze and Thornclaw. "Hey Ivypool." My sister, Dovewing, mews. "Hey. I'm going on patrol." I reply, walking once again for the two, who are pacing at the thorn barrier. But of course, Dovewing stops me again. "Ugh! What do you want!" I snap at her. She just stares back at me, with hurt in her eyes. I ignore it, and push her aside to go to Thornclaw and Lionblaze. Finally, we go out into the lush green forest, and I open my mouth to taste the air for any scents of prey. I smell a thrush not too far off, and crouching, move closer until I can here its gentle flapping of wings. A tail length away, I pounce, killing it with a swift bite. I scrape earth over my catch, and walk around, ears and mouth alert for prey. After the hunting patrol gathers in a small clearing, we have three mice, a squirrel, my thrush plus a dove, and a shrew. Each carrying prey, we walk back to camp.

Chapter 2

"Hey Ivypool!" Bumblestripe calls. "Hey." Is all I reply, which in my head I think that's kind of rude, but I walk over to the warriors den and curl up in my nest. The soft snoring of other cats lulls me into sleep, and I wake up to find myself in the Dark Forest. *Why do I always have to end up here...* I think in my head. "Ivypool! You're late." Brokenstar growls. "I know, sorry" I mutter. "You'd better be. Now, go with your mentors and start training." He rumbles. I drag myself over to Redwillow and Tigerheart, two shadowclan warriors. "I wonder what we're doing today." I ask, breaking the silence. But before either of them could reply, our mentor, Hawkfrost, pads up. "Ivypool. I want you to attack Redwillow. Whoever pins the other down, wins. And, this is not a kittypet fight." I crouch, tucking my hind legs in, getting ready to pounce. I give an enormous leap, crossing over Redwillow and whirling around, clawing his flank as I do so. He whips around, bringing an unsheathed paw across my face. Hiding back a yowl of pain, I toss myself on him, sinking my claws in his shoulders. We roll around on the dark forest floor, biting and clawing each others fur off. I rake my claws down his side, and blood oozes out. He yowls with pain, and I grin. "Alright, since this kittypet has had enough, stop." Hawkfrost yowls in a sarcastic tone. "Off you go." I start to pad away when Tigerheart comes up. "You were great at fighting today, Ivypool." He says smoothly with a wave of his tail. "Thanks. You were too." I replied simply and closed my eyes to fade off.

Chapter 3

Out in the forest, I inhale the fresh scents of prey. *Thrush...squirrel...*mouse. Carefully, I stalk the mouse, easily catching it. Back at camp, I drop my prey on the pile and walk over to Dovewing, Bumblestripe, and Ferncloud, who are gossiping near the warriors den. "Hey!" I call. Just then, Dovewing gets called by Firestar to his den. With an angry flick of my tail and a low growl, I walk over to Ferncloud and Bumblestripe. *This is the fifth time this week...* She thought. *Why is she so special!* Tail flicking angrily, I stalk over to the fresh kill pile and choose a plump mouse. For the rest of the evening, I train as hard as I can in the dark forest. "Is that the best you can do?" Hawkfrost sneers at Tigerheart, who is training with me. Tigerheart leaps at me, but I dodge to the side, giving him a trim on the side. He immediately twists and leaps again, and I let him pounce on me, but I squirm trying to get him off. "Alright, enough. Go back to your camps." Tigerheart gets off, but meows, "You didn't have to help me out." I look into his warm eyes, and reply, " I didn't want anything to happen to you."

Chapter 4

"Hey Ivypool." I mew quietly to her in the warriors den, where she and I are standing beside our nests. She doesn't answer back, so I suspect she's mad at me again for being part of the prophecy. Sighing, I go out to be called by Cinderheart to go on a hunting patrol. Smiling, I pad over to them, going out the thorn barrier and instantly scenting for prey. *Wow, the forest is so big.* I say in my head. "Hey Dovewing, would you like to hunt with me?" Bumblestripe asks. "Sure." I reply. We set off together both scenting for prey. At the end of our partner hunting, we have two squirrels and a mouse. "You're really good at hunting." Bumblestripe mews when we're going to camp. "Thanks." I blush back. "Looks like someone has a crush," Cinderheart mews. I jump, and answer, "No I don't!" She smiles, and flicks her tail. "I can tell you do, and don't argue with me about it." *Whatever* I say to myself.

Chapter 5

"Dodge to the side like we learned yesterday!" I yowl at my new apprentice, Stormlily. She tries to pin down Tigerheart in a practice battle, but he rakes his claws across her ear, causing blood to spatter onto the dark green grass. "Hey! You have your claws out!" She yells at him. "This isn't a kittypet fight like your clan!" I snap at her before Tigerheart could answer. "Now, go back to your clan." She disappears, and Tigerheart whispers, "Can we meet tomorrow, just the two of us, at the old twoleg den?" I start nodding, then answer, "Ok, sure. See you tomorrow." I wake up in my nest near the back, and think about what tomorrow night would be like. *I guess I do like him, even if we're in different clans.* I daydream about Tigerheart, his handsome dark brown tabby coat shining in the Dark Forest light.

Chapter 6

I hear yelling somewhere off, and I go to where I feel it is. The yelling gets louder, and I hear Leafpool's voice, and... Crowfeather?!? I start walking faster, and hear Lionblaze and Jayfeather trying to stop their fighting. I crawl underneath a bramble bush, peeking out just enough for me to see out of. Crowfeather snarls at Leafpool, and Jayfeather blindly whimpers for them to stop. Lionblaze growls at Leafpool, and Crowfeather snarls, "these things are not my kits! Only Nightcloud is my mate!" Leafpool looks away. "I'm sorry, but yes, Crowfeather Lionblaze, Jayfeather and Hollyleaf are your kits." Crowfeather stares at her, fury blazing in his eyes, but I quickly turn away, heading back to camp.

Chapter 7

Tonight was the night I meet Tigerheart at the twoleg den. I wondered all day what I thought would happen, but every time it changed to a different story. As I walk out of the Elder's den, I bump into Milie, and she drops the mouse she was carrying. "Hey! This was for Briarlight, and now its all dusty! Watch where your walking." She snaps. I look at her as she stomps over to the fresh kill pile, and Graystripe hurries up to me. "Sorry, she's still a little shaken up since..." He paused, looking away, then looking back. "The accident." He finishes, and pads to the barrier, towards Brightheart, Squirrelflight and Lionblaze with his head down. My mind goes back to Tigerheart and the meeting, then the Dark Forest. *I hope no one notices we're gone.* "Ivypool, Ivypool come on!" Someone shouts and I look around and see Jayfeather waving his tail. I quickly hop over, trying to think of what he wants me for. "You were going to help me gather herbs today, remember?" He sarcastically growls with a flick of his tail as he turns toward the thorn barrier. After a little while of gathering about like two leaves, we head back to camp and I notice Dovewing talking to Firestar, *again. Ugh, why can't someone notice ME for once? All I want ever seem to do is help gather a bunch of useless leaves.*

Chapter 8

"Millie, re-mark the borders with Dovewing. Berrynose, go look at the ShadowClan border with Graystripe and Blossomfall. I will go with Millie and Dovewing." Brambleclaw meows, and we all nod, heading off in our directions. Millie takes the lead while I go in the middle, Brambleclaw trailing behind. I stretch my senses to WindClan territory, checking if there is any patrols out. *None. Good.* We keep walking until we reach the border with WindClan first. After the border is secured, I stand beside Brambleclaw, and we wait for Millie. After a little while we hear a screech from ShadowClan way, and Blossomfall bursts through bushes in front of us. "Go get help! ShadowClan is attacking!! Graystripe and Berrynose are trying to fight them off, but they won't hold much longer." She pants. "Dovewing, run back to camp and get help. Blossomfall, Millie and I will come with you to help out Graystripe and Berrynose." Brambleclaw orders, and I race off in the direction of camp.

Chapter 9

Dovewing burst through the camp barrier, panting. "What happened? Where are the rest?" Firestar demanded. "ShadowClan... Brambleclaw and the rest... Help needed..." She breathes out, and every warrior is out by now gathered around, including me. "Birchfall, Lionblaze, Squirrelflight, Cherrypaw, Whitewing, Brakenfur, Cloudtail! Follow Dovewing to the ShadowClan border and help out with the fighting." Firestar calls, and as soon as they are out of the camp he faces the rest of us. "Rosetail, Toadstep, Brightheart, Spiderleg. Stay and guard the camp. The rest of you..." He looks around at the group not guarding, and continues. "The rest of you will be coming to fight, Jayfeather I would get some herbs ready. I don't think it will be too bad, but I just want to make sure." Everyone that is guarding gets in the most protective places, guarding the Nursery and the Elder's den first. As soon as we set off, letting the moonlight lead our path, I remember the meeting with Tigerheart. *Oh no! He's going to think I'm a liar! But still... He is in ShadowClan...* I keep pace with Bumblestripe until he moves up to Dovewing, and I get a place in the back. *I can't... I can't...* I repeat in my head, and we reach the ShadowClan border to see a fierce battle going on, more and more ShadowClan cats streaming at our warriors. *Now I HAVE to stay...* I run ahead, finding a spot in between Brakenfur and Cloudtail, and get ready for the signal.

Chapter 10

I was fighting with all my might, wishing the second patrol would hurry their tails up. We were losing badly, more and more cats streaming in from the shadows, slashing and biting our warriors. Badly outnumbered, we were backed into a corner of brambles, and we had to fight fiercely to get out. I lunge at a huge black ShadowClan tom who was batting Cherrypaw like she was a flower, sinking my claws in and screeching when he sliced my stomach. Graystripe hurries over after taking a blow from a hefty tortoiseshell she-cat, slicing the tom's ear and pulling me away. "Thanks." I murmur, but he's already gone. ThunderClan's screeches and cries were so loud I bet StarClan could hear them, but yet again, I have super hearing... Whatever. Doesn't matter. Finally, I hear Firestar's signal and cats from ThunderClan stream in, lunging and clawing at ShadowClan cats. *Finally! We're winning!* Then *even more* ShadowClan cats burst from the bushes. It seemed like there was the whole entire forest here! Slicing a cat's nose, I hurry along fighting every cat I see. "Retreat ThunderClan! Retreat!" Firestar screeches. ThunderClan cats fly through the bushes, heading back to camp quickly, many cats being held up by another. Brightheart had scratches all over her, a sliced nose and ear, and was bleeding heavily. "Ha! Now we can prove that ThunderClan is just a bunch of kittypets. Just wait till everyone at the Gathering hears about this!" Blackstar yowls after us. All of ShadowClan joins in, snarling and yowling insults at us.

Chapter 11

*My paw hurt badly, I was limping on i*t from this bite from a large tom. I looked around for Dovewing to make sure she was ok. As soon as I find her, I skip up. "That was really uncalled for. I mean, no wonder we lost! It was stupid. Those mouse-brain, fox-hearted, frog-breath killers!" I snarled. All she did was nod, and I remembered about Tigerheart. *He's not that mean, is he?* Back at camp, everyone was beat up and bleeding heavily. Jayfeather and Leafpool went from cat to cat, dressing wounds and doing stuff with herbs. I noticed that Lionblaze wasn't hurt at all, just had blood all over him. *How is that possible?* Leafpool pads up to me with some herbs stuffed in her jaws, but I flick my tail, and notice Cherrypaw, Brightheart and... *Graystripe? No, we can't lose him. Not yet. He's not ready.* Leafpool notices them too, calling Jayfeather to come. I stagger to the warriors den, tired, in pain, and wishing that never happened. Briarlight drags herself out from the medicine den, bringing some herbs with her. *Is she another medicine cat or something? We have too many of those.* As I see her, I remember the terrible accident. I was only an apprentice, and Dovewing freaked out the most. I lay down in my nest, closing my eyes. A few seconds later, I wake up in the Dark Forest. *Ugh. Can't I have a break for once?* "Ivypool, we're waiting." Someone snarls, and I turn to see Hawkfrost and Brokenstar standing behind me. Brokenstar stalks away into the shadows, and I speak up. "Can't I have a break? ShadowClan attacked us hard, and I'm tired and beat up." I mew quickly. He stares at me. "Fine, but I hope you used the things you have learned." He growls. I close my eyes, fading away when I hear a familiar voice. "Miss me? Or do you just not care?" Tigerheart snarls behind me, clawing my side. I open my eyes. Standing up, I face him. "Look, your clan attacked us. Its not my fault I had to stay and protect my clan, from *yours.*" I growl, narrowing my eyes. He snarls at me. "I thought you cared. I thought we were special. But I was wrong. I was wrong about everything about you." He backs into the shadows, leaving me alone. My claws come out, and I score the ground before closing my eyes and fading away.

Chapter 12

"Jayfeather, come quick! Its Brightheart! I yowl, standing over her unmoving body. *No, no no no... No no no no no no...* Cloudtail shoots up from his nest as Leafpool and Jayfeather rush in, herbs stuffed in their jaws. Cloudtail crouches by her side, head and ears down. Jayfeather puts his head to her chest, and I hold my breath. He stands up, looks at Leafpool, then Cloudtail. He shakes his head. Cloudtail yowls, pawing at her side, and I hiss at him to be quiet. He doesn't listen. By now the whole clan is up, and Firestar drags his paws in, ears alert but looking exhausted. "We'll have to have the vigil tomorrow. Nobody should have died. It was only a small border battle." He sighs. "Are you sure it was just a *border* fight?" Brambleclaw, his deputy, challenges. Firestar backs out, followed by Leafpool and Jayfeather. My ears lay flat on my head, and I feel guilty for some reason. Everyone lays back down, except for Cloudtail, who tries not to cry, lays beside Brightheart. *Oh StarClan, why did this have to happen?*

Chapter 13

Brightheart died. And Graystripe and Cherrypaw are close behind. I wake up to a clan full of sorrow, anger and independence. No one was talking, no patrols were out, so I went over to find Brambleclaw. He was busy fighting with Firestar, so I left them. *Our clan is falling apart, because of ShadowClan.* "Dovewing? Are you going to be silent like the others?" I whisper to her. "Well, I don't see what else I would do. The deputy and leader are fighting, Cloudtail is becoming crazy, the whole clan is ignoring each other, and Graystripe and Cherrypaw are close to dying. We are falling apart!" She answers. "And, its the Gathering tonight." Lionblaze adds padding over. I nod, and look at the ground. "What are we going to do?" Dovewing asks, worry edging in her voice. "We'll have to wait until everyone overcomes the depression." Lionblaze solomly meows. I pad out of camp, deciding to hunt because it obviously didn't look like there would be anyone else doing so. I breathe in the morning air, opening my mouth for any scents. The scent of... *Crowfood? Why would there be crowfood?* I slowly start moving towards the scent, and draw myself under a bush, coming to a rabbit, ripped apart, laying beside a log. My ears lay flat, and I bolt to camp. "Firestar! Brambleclaw!" I yowl. Brambleclaw bursts out of the warriors den, and Firestar pads out quickly from his den. "What is it?" Firestar growls. "I...I found a rotten rabbit..." I stutter. He narrows his eyes, staring at me. "Show me where it is." I lead him out of camp, moving toward where the rabbit was. Firestar randomly stopped, sniffing and moving inch by inch. His eyes narrowed as he looked at the rabbit. "ShadowClan! How did I know they were up to this..." He snarls. My ears lay flat, and we walk back to camp, Firestar blazing with anger and Brambleclaw padding behind slowly.

Chapter 14

Firestar looks so angry... And Ivypool is worried. I need to see if I can help! Working my way around all the devastated and sorrow filled cats, I head for Firestar's den. I mew to make sure he knows I'm there, and he let's me in. "What is it, Dovewing?" He grumbles. Sandstorm, Leafpool and Squirrelflight are in the den also, which makes it crowded. "Umm... Can I talk to him alone? Please?" I murmur. Sandstorm says nothing, just walks out followed by Squirrelflight. Leafpool nods, backing out too. "So why do you want to talk to me, exactly?" I swallowed. "Well... I was thinking I could maybe do something with my power." He looks at me. "To help get information on the other Clans, maybe?" I add. "I dont know. Go ahead. Might do something, but right now nobody else is helpful. I don't think it will make a difference." *He seems so... Distant. Soon, there won't* ***be*** *a ThunderClan to help with all of the grief and anger around.* I think in my head as I pass Millie, growling at Dustpelt for a scrawny mouse in which would go to Briarlight or the kits and queens. I walk out of camp, sitting by a fallen tree out in the forest and casting my senses out. I hear kits playing and apprentices practicing fighting skills in ShadowClan, a mentor scolding an apprentice on a patrol in WindClan, and some warriors chatting while fishing in RiverClan. I go back to ShadowClan, and find *everyone* training for fighting. *Great StarClan these cats like to cause trouble...*

Chapter 15

Its the next day. Great. Just what we all need. Oh, and did I mention it was the gathering tonight? Which makes it even better. Just *perfect.* Absolutely no problems. Graystripe wasn't getting better, nor Cherrypaw, and everyone else was as grumpy as usual. I pad over to the group of about four cats; Brambleclaw, Millie, Dovewing and Cinderheart. As soon as I open my mouth, Cinderheart hisses "Are you going to be our deputy and help Firestar get the clan back together, or are we going to sit here like a group of ungrateful rogues?" Brambleclaw narrows his eyes at her. "Don't you think *I* know what's best, or do you think you're in charge?" Without giving her a chance to finish, he goes on. "Firestar and I will decide what we're doing later. *You* can stay out of it." He snaps. I look at the cats around me. *Maybe I can help somehow... I will do something...* Whispering my plan to Dovewing, she nods and goes to the Apprentices den. I head to the Warriors den, and calling into the semi-lit den, "Anyone up for hunting patrol or border patrol? We need to do those things." I back out, and Lionblaze, Cloudtail, Bumblestripe, Birchfall and Whitewing all follow me. "We need to put this clan back together. And we will do it. ShadowClan doesn't scare me, or anyone around here! We are ThunderClan, and that means we are the bravest and strongest of them all!" Lionblaze roars. "Yeah!" Everyone agrees. I smile, and look over to see Dovewing with nobody. "There isn't any apprentices. But I see you've got warriors." I nod, and meow, "Who wants hunting patrol? Its going to need to be a big group, since we have a lot of starving cats." Birchfall perks his ears. "I'll be on hunting patrol." Whitewing steps up. "Me too." Bumblestripe and Lionblaze nod their heads. "Dovewing, can you go with them?" I ask. She nods and the group goes out.

A little while later...

The fresh kill pile was almost full, but still cats didn't seem to be happy. I decide to go out on my own to take a walk, and I tell Dovewing to tell everyone else if they ask. I could collect some

moss, too, for the old nests around. My paws carry me in the direction of the twoleg nest and I see the old, brown torn down nest waiting for me to calm down in there. But when I padded inside, I saw a brown tabby back sitting in the middle of the nest. Could it... No. As soon as I step in, the cat turns its head. Tigerheart? What is he doing here? "Ivypool?" He asks, and I stare at him. "What are you uh... doing here?" I ask him. He smiles and stands to look at me. "Well, I like this place, it lets me be calm and not stress. And... I'm sorry for how I acted last night. I... I shouldn't have." He waves me over with his tail. I start to cautiously make my way over and sit next to him. "Its okay." I meow.

Chapter 16

Ivypool went out on a walk by herself and hasn't returned yet. Then again, the camp is awful and its the middle of the night. So, I guess I shouldn't worry too much. I was awake in my nest staring outside into the empty clearing. Bumblestripe was to my left, Ivypool's empty nest to my right. Bumblestripe flicked his tail and it landed softly onto mine. I smiled and fell into a sweet dream of him and me.

Ivypool's P.O.V.
Tigerheart was beside me... And we weren't fighting. Two different clan cats, sitting in an abandoned twoleg nest, not hostile, but calm and... Loving? I don't know what was between us. I glanced over at him, to see his warm amber eyes glowing toward me. He was smiling and wrapped his tail around me. I looked quickly at my paws and flattened my ears. My head actually started to think, and I thought of all the trouble I'd be in if anyone found out about this. I stood up and looked at him sadly. "Tigerheart..." He stood up with me. "What's the matter?" He looked concerned now. "We... We can't do this. I'm a ThunderClan cat and you're ShadowClan... How much would we suffer?" I turned away from him. "Goodbye, Tigerheart. I'll see you in the Dark Forest." Walking away, he follows me with his eyes. "Wait, we can still be together! We'll make it work, don't worry." He called after me. "No. I'm sorry... Think of how much trouble we would cause." I trot out faster. "You're not sorry... I shouldn't have trusted you." He muttered. I was charging back to camp now, feeling the soft green grass under my paws and tears forming, but I pushed them away.

Authors note

[image]

I am wondering if anyone is still reading my book, because I don't see many views... Not too say I'm expecting like 800 views, just I have 4 and 1 on my most recent chapters. Please notify me if I am doing something wrong or if its too long or something. Soooooooo... Yeah. Comment any issues you have down below.

Sorry...

I am no longer going to continue this book. I do not think people read it anymore, and I'm sorry to anyone who does. I feel like this book has gone on long enough and will not need to be continued. If I get more than 10 complaints saying to continue, I will. If not, then say goodbye to Ivypool's Story. (Not deleting it)

Chapter 17

Ivypool's POV
Ivypool padded out of the warriors den and stretched. She yawned and nodded to Dovewing, who came up to her. "How'd you sleep?" Her sister asked. "Good." Ivypool replied simply. She glanced toward Brambleclaw who was finally making patrols again. The clan was coming back together, and she smiled. "Lionblaze, take Millie and Whitewing on a border patrol by WindClan." Brambleclaw orders the three, then glances around the clearing. "Ivypool, Sandstorm, Spiderleg, Cinderheart and I will patrol ShadowClan's border and renew it." Ivypool glanced at Bumblestripe and Brackenfur chatting lowly. "We renewed it on the dawn patrol!" Bumblestripe complained and rolled his eyes.
Dovewing's POV
Dovewing sighed and looked at Daisy who was jumping out of the way from a spider, calling for Cloudtail to kill it. He refused and went to the med den to receive his treatment that he now needed. Dovewing rolled her eyes and padded over, squashing the spider. She nodded to Daisy and sat down beside the fkp, noticing Bumblestripe lingering before coming over to her. "Hi," he meowed. "Hello. Looks like Brambleclaw isn't too trusting of the ShadowClan border." Dovewing commented and glanced at the dark pelted tom leaving. Bumblestripe nodded and sat down. "Prey seems to be running well." He commented. "If we could catch it," Millie came over with a growl. Dovewing rolled her eyes and looked at the entrance.
Ivypool's POV
Ivypool followed behind Sandstorm, the she-cat seeming to be getting old. She still had a bit of her younger spirit line in her eyes though. Brambleclaw started to sniff around five tail lengths from the border. *He's being way too worried about them.* She thought. Cinderheart marked a bush beside the border and hissed at a ShadowClan patrol. "Oh, it seems ThunderClan is finally coming out of their hidey hole dens."

~Authors note~

Hey! I noticed a few people told me to continue, so I did. I'd like to know in the comments below if I should publish a chapter of my other book called CedarClan.
P.S, I made this chapter a bit long for you guys :3 thanks for reading! ^-^

Chapter 18

Dovewing's POV
Dovewing stretched out beside the elders den on a warm patch of rocks. Her tail flicked lazily and she smiled, thanking the sun for being out. Squirrelflight rolled her eyes at her, but in a playful way, and Dovewing returned the gesture. It felt good to finally relax.

Ivypool's POV
Sandstorm curled her lips back, and Ivypool hissed. "At least we aren't stealing prey!" Brambleclaw snarled, lashing his tail. A black ShadowClan cat snickered. "Well, your Clan certainly hasn't been using the territory, so we thought that we could use it." Spiderleg snarled. "What do you think StarClan thinks of you for that?" He challenged. A thin but strong cream colored cat smiled. "What do you think they think of you, for sitting in your camp and sobbing for a few moons?" That silenced both of the clans. After a while of quiet, Brambleclaw gave a dismissive flick of his ear. "Don't let us catch you taking our prey again." He growled, and turned to continue the patrol.

Dovewing's POV
Dovewing stood and trotted over to Squirrelflight, Dustpelt and Lionblaze. "We're going on a hunting patrol." Squirrelflight informed her and she nodded, following them out.

Ivypool's POV
Leaping over a fallen tree trunk, Ivypool turned her head to see if the patrol was still following her. Brambleclaw showed up first, then Spiderleg. Sandstorm came next over the trunk, and Cinderheart last. "I'll report what happened during the patrol to Firestar." Brambleclaw offered. Ivypool nodded and padded into camp, passing her sister. She sat beside the warriors den and began to groom her fur. Her thoughts roamed to Tigerheart, so perfect when he sat in the Twoleg home... She sighed and shook him away. She couldn't think about him anymore.

Later that night, at the gathering

Ivypool trotted behind Brambleclaw and Squirrelflight who were murmuring quietly. She sighed and looked over at the big lake, admiring the shining surface. Firestar stopped ahead to let WindClan go first, and she heard irritated sighs from ThunderClan's warriors. "I don't care if we are using a little bit of their territory, we should get to go first." Dustpelt muttered. Dovewing, of course, was patiently waiting with a smile on her face. She didn't seem to care about anything except having a smile. Once we finally reached the island, every clan but ours was there. Great. Ivypool settled with Sandstorm, Spiderleg and Lionblaze nearby while ShadowClan lingered on my other side. With a scared feeling, she turned her head and saw... Tigerheart. *Of course he's here. And of course he has to be sitting near me.* She thought with a sigh and turned to look at the leaders, waiting for this Gathering to end.

Dovewing's POV

Dovewing noticed Ivypool sitting somewhat alone and stood to go over to her sister, but paused when she noticed Tigerheart inching closer to Ivypool. Curious, and a little frightened, she trotted over. "Hey," she greeted the two of them. Tigerheart gave her a friendly smile and met her eyes for a moment. Flattening her ears in embarrassment, she looked toward Ivypool. "Hi." Ivypool said simply and flicked her tail tip. She noticed a tense hostility between the two and shook her head. Firestar announced the news for ThunderClan, then Onestar. RiverClan went next, and finally ShadowClan. Everything seemed to be going well for each clan.

Later, after the gathering

Ivypool trotted silently with ThunderClan back toward camp. Her paws were half dragging with fatigue, and she blinked dreariness out of her eyes. Firestar even looked like his shoulders were sagging. Not to mention the leader only had a few lives left. She didn't know for sure. Dovewing looked suspiciously quiet for the happy cat she is. Ivypool picked her way through the cats to reach her, but Jayfeather got there first. With an irritated snort, she continued behind Spiderleg.

Dovewing's POV

Dovewing didn't even notice the medicine cat come up beside her, for she was too deep in thought. *Why did Tigerheart ask me to meet*

him? And at such an early time? What was going on between him and Ivypool? She sighed and jumped as Jayfeather spoke. "You seem concerned about something, I can tell by the way your paws are scuffing." He meowed, staring ahead, as always. Dovewing shook her head even if he couldn't see it. "I'm just tired." She murmured and thanked StarClan when they reached camp. Going straight to the warriors den with the others, she plopped into her nest and shut her eyes. She would need as much time for sleep as she could get if she were going to meet Tigerheart.

Chapter 19

Dovewing's POV

"So you came." A slightly familiar voice came from her left and she turned to see Tigerheart slinking into the Twoleg den. She blinked to clear away some of the darkness and read his expression, but it didn't work. "I did. What do you need?" Dovewing was a little scared to ask that question. What if he openly attacked her? What if he said something about her sister? Did she really want to know what he wanted? "I've noticed how kind and helpful you are." He murmured and began to circle her. She blushed slightly and lowered her gaze to the ground. Not too soon after, his tail lifted her head so their eyes met. "You look beautiful in the rising sun." He smiled and she couldn't help but purr. "T-thank you." Dovewing smiled. Tigerheart wove around her again. "We should head back. Meet me again tomorrow?" He asked. "But... What did you want me for?" Dovewing looked at him confused. Tigerheart softly shook his head with a purr. "See you tomorrow." And with that he turned and exited the twoleg den, running off toward his own territory. Dovewing sighed and stood, deciding to hunt so she could get his scent off and have a reason to have left camp so early.

Ivypool's POV

Ivypool padded around camp before she heard her name to be on patrol with Brambleclaw, Bumblestripe and Spiderleg. She trotted over and walked in the back of the patrol, her mind wandering to the gathering. She hissed internally but came back to reality so she could hunt. After a while, she noticed Dovewing heading back toward camp and leapt in her way with a suspicious growl. "Where have you been?" She blurted. Her sister shrugged, keeping calm. "Hunting." She replied and went around Ivypool. *Yeah, right.* Ivypool thought with a roll of her eyes and turned to continue actual hunting.

Chapter 20

Ivypool's POV

She stayed asleep longer than she probably should have, due to extra training in the Dark Forest. Tigerstar made sure they were all ready for his 'big plans' that he would tell them later on. It most likely had something to do with taking over the clans and whatnot, and how if they didn't help him they'd be killed. Her thoughts on his plans ended when Brambleclaw prodded her awake, obviously annoyed. "You missed the dawn patrol." He snorted. She rolled her eyes, making sure he didn't notice, and stood with a yawn. "Alright alright, what patrol is next?" She asked, disinterested. "Purdy is expecting more moss." Brambleclaw said with the smallest hint of a smirk. "But that's a job for apprentices!" She exclaimed, frowning. "If you're going to sleep like an apprentice, you'll do a job like an apprentice." He said gruffly and trotted out of the warriors den. Ivypool growled silently and stalked out behind him, going toward the entrance.

Dovewing's POV

Dovewing noticed her sister groggily, and angrily, going out of camp. She wanted to go find out why, but was interrupted by Bumblestripe, who stopped her. "Hey Dovewing!" He said cheerfully. "Hello Bumbestripe." She greeted back, returning a smile. "How are you?" He asked, and she nodded. "I'm doing well, how about you?" He nodded as well. "Not too bad myself." After that it was a couple awkward moments of silence. "So what do-" Dovewing was stopped by a bloodied and thin cat. She tilted her head, confused, until she smelled the familiar scent of WindClan. Brambleclaw padded up to the stranger while Squirrelflight bounded up to Firestar's den. "Please... Help needed..." The cat gasped. "What's happening?" Brambleclaw asked. He seemed to be confident and sure of himself, but you could detect worry in his voice. "B-badgers. They're everywhere." The car managed to spit out after calming down. "How many are there?" Firestar asked, strolling over to the cat and Brambleclaw. "I didn't count but when I left it seemed about 5... Please hurry!" The cat replied worriedly. "Alright.

Brambleclaw, make a group of cats to go but keep some here in case badgers attack us. I'll be at the entrance to lead the group next to the WindClan cat." Firestar ordered and hurried to the entrance, the cat following. Dovewing had her ears flattened and was standing stiffly next to Bumbestripe. *How are we supposed to fight off 5 badgers?* She looked around for Ivypool, but didn't see her. "Daisy, Sandstorm, Cloudtail, Briarlight and Dustpelt stay at camp." Brambleclaw announced. "The rest of you, come fight." The assigned cats went to their places but Dovewing hurried over to Brambleclaw. "May I go out to find Ivypool? I don't know where she went." She asked worriedly. *Ivypool could have been attacked by badgers for all we know*. She thought.

Ivypool's POV

Grumbling, she clawed more moss off the roots of yet another tree. *why can't Purdy get his own moss? He told us he used to fight off like 5 foxes at a time before, so what's so bad about collecting moss for himself?* She wondered grouchily. Gathering her second bundle, she heard running pawsteps coming toward her and spun around to see Dovewing stumbling to a stop. "Ivypool!" She said, out of breath. "Ditch the moss, WindClan is being attacked by badgers and we need you to fight." She explained quickly. "The clan is leaving now, so we have to hurry up and catch them." Ivypool nodded and took off after her sister, swiftly dodging trees and bramble vines. They saw the group of ThunderClan cats ahead and sped up, getting in the back. The clan ran over the border, being led by the WindClan cat and Firestar. By the time they neared the camp everyone could hear yowls of pain, fury and agony. It was truly horrifying when they poured into the camp. Blood was smeared of every den and cats' bodies lined the camp, while five huge, lumbering creatures tore through what used to be the WindClan camp. There were very few cats still fighting. Ivypool counted about 6 cats trying not to be killed like the rest of them. Ivypool shook her head before barreling toward a badger, latching on with her claws. Brambleclaw, Lionblaze and Birchfall joined her, all attacking from different sides. Firestar, Spiderleg, Bumblestripe, Millie and Cinderheart raced off toward a WindClan cat attacking alone and the rest attacked other badgers.

Dovewing's POV

Dovewing stared at all the fighting and shook her head softly. *If we don't run we'll all be killed.* She thought with an inward sigh and ran toward the nearest badger, swiping at its paw. She growled and bit down on it, getting knocked away but she scrambled back to her paws. Blossomfall joined her and together they attacked the badger, Berrynose helping from the other side. A bloodcurdling screech made Dovewing jump and stop, staring toward where it came from. There, laying on the ground before the bloody paws of a badger was Birchfall's body. Horrified, Dovewing stumbled on her paws. "No... Not him..." She murmured. *We need to retreat.* She carefully skidded forward, gripping Birchfall's scruff and dragging him backward, out of the mess. Once he was far enough she raced back inside the camp, searching desperately for Firestar. She found the leader batting the head of a badger and dodging being snapped at. "Firestar!" She yowled, running toward him and stumbling a bit. "We need to retreat, we can't win this!" Firestar stared at her for a moment before sighing. "You're right. ThunderClan, retreat! As well as the rest of the WindClan cats!" He yowled, causing cats to race to the entrance of camp and flee the gruesome battle. On her way out, Dovewing didn't forget to grab her father and drag him along with the clan. They reached a dip in the moor, hidden by all of the high grasses around. To their surprise, there were at least five WindClan cats hiding from the battle. "What were some of your warriors doing fighting while you hid back here?" Brambleclaw challenged, stepping up to Onestar, who dipped his head calmly. "They wanted to stay and fight." He croaked, obviously exhausted. "That's beside the point." Firestar meowed, stepping in. "You all need a place to stay. Would you like to stay at our camp for a while?" Onestar blinked, seeming to think before he sighed and nodded. "Thank you, Firestar. You are kind as always and we are grateful for that." He dipped his head respectfully. Firestar nodded and turned toward his warriors, lifting his head to survey them. "We will have a ceremony for all those that have died. Onestar, do you have any bodies of your dead clanmates?" He asked. Meanwhile, Dovewing had stumbled over to Ivypool with a horrified expression. "D-dad is..." She couldn't finish, and looked at the ground.

Ivypool's POV

What? Dad is what? "No... He's not..." Ivypool frowned as reality hit her like a claw. "No!" She felt her legs grow weak but she forced

herself to stay standing. Dovewing nodded sorrowfully and touched muzzles, whimpering softly. *StarClan, why him? He's done nothing wrong...*

Along the way back to ThunderClan camp...
Brambleclaw, Mousewhisker, Blossomfall, Onestar and a few WindClan Warriors were carrying their dead cats while Dovewing and Ivypool were switching between them who carried Birchfall. As they reached camp, the cats who stayed behind rushed forward to meet them. "Any trouble?" Firestar asked them. "No signs of anything." Sandstorm replied. Jayfeather and Leafpool got to work on the worst cats while the others waited.

A/N:
Hey! I'm sorry I haven't been updating, my summer has been really busy! I'll try to update more on this book for you guys, thanks for reading!

Chapter 21

Ivypool's POV

She stared at the mass pile of bodies in the clearing. A deep frown melted into her face as she saw her father, the one and only Birchfall among those bodies. *I know I've done many things wrong... But he hasn't. Why would you take him and not me?* Ivypool wondered with a sigh. There would be a vigil tonight for all WindClan and ThunderClan cats that had died in the gruesome battle. Even though Birchfall was the only ThunderClan cat that died, others were very close. Leafpool trotted over to Ivypool and laid her herbs down. "Anything serious?" The medicine cat asked. Honestly Ivypool hadn't felt the pain of her wounds until now. "No, you can move on." Ivypool said absentmindedly. With a nod, Leafpool picked up her herbs and walked off to another cat. "Dovewing!" She heard Firestar call and flattened her ears. *Ugh. She's talking with him again. Must be fun being that attended to.* Ivypool thought angrily and looked away as her sister passed. *Didn't she care that I get no attention while she's the head of the clan?* Ivypool stood and stalked to Birchfall's body, pushing her nose against his fur. Some cat padded behind Ivypool, pressing against her fur and placing their nose beside Ivypool's. Surprised, Ivypool looked up and saw her mother. Now that she thought of it, the two she-cats haven't talked in a while. No words were spoken as they mourned for their loss.

Dovewing's POV

"Why didn't you sense anything happened at the WindClan camp?" Firestar asked as soon as she padded into the den. "I wasn't putting my hearing out..." Dovewing mumbled. The fiery leader sighed, flicking his tail. "You need to be more attentive. Have your senses out on a regular check, okay?" Firestar instructed. *I don't think that's how it works.* "Yes Firestar." And with that she was dismissed, passing Sandstorm. "We will mourn later, but for now we must strengthen ourselves. The strongest cats step forward." Brambleclaw announced. Lionblaze obviously stepped forward, as well as Cloudtail and Graystripe. Bumblestripe, Squirrelflight and Cinderheart joined them.

Ivypool's POV

She stepped up beside Squirrelflight and flicked her ear, guessing it was for patrols. "Squirrelflight, take Cloudtail and Bumblestripe hunting. Catch more than usual, we have a lot of mouths to feed." The bright orange she-cat nodded and collected the two before walking out. "Graystripe, Lionblaze and Cinderheart check the border for any signs of danger, but be careful." The three nodded and set off, leaving just him and Ivypool. "You and I will go around the ShadowClan border and mark it thoroughly." Ivypool nodded and padded after him, listening to the birds chirping away high above the camp. Some leaves were crushed softly beneath her paws and she dodged a few twigs along the way. "So what's up with you?" Brambleclaw asked, slowing down to walk at her side. She looked at him confused. "What do you mean?" Ivypool asked. "You've been more grumpy and snappy than usual these past few days. And you barely talk to anyone." Brambleclaw looked at her seriously. Ivypool rolled her eyes, looking away. "I'm fine." Brambleclaw lashed his tail. "No, something's up and you're going to tell me or we will sit here all night." The deputy snorted and sat, signaling her to do the same. Ivypool reluctantly sat in front of him, refusing to meet eyes with the dark brown tabby. "There's nothing wrong." She insisted. "Ivypool." Brambleclaw meowed deeply. She sighed, turning her head to look at him. "I haven't been getting much sleep, I guess." She mumbled. "And?" Brambleclaw urged her on. "I don't know." Ivypool snorted and flicked her ear. "Shouldn't we be marking the borders?" She asked, wanting to change the subject. "Not until I can assure the clan's warriors are alright. If you insist, we'll mark the borders, but I'll be keeping an eye out for you." Ivypool nodded and quickly padded away toward the ShadowClan border.

A/N:

Sorry this chapter is kinda short, I've been having a pretty busy summer this year and now with school here I'll be even busier. Again, sorry, I'll try to update as much as I can. Thanks for reading!

Chapter 22

Ivypool's POV

She had been avoiding the deputy for a while, seeing as she didn't want him to notice anything off with her. She was still upset about her father but it had been a few days and she was slowly recovering from it. The clan had mostly returned to their normal schedule, other than WindClan cats helping out. It should have lifted Ivypool's mood, but it only made her more hostile toward the other cats. Firestar was a lot more attentive to ThunderClan only to make sure they were being welcoming to the WindClan intruders. She listened to Cloudtail and Brambleclaw talking beside the fresh kill pile. "How long are they going to stay here?" Cloudtail asked the deputy. "I'm not sure, but I've asked Firestar and he said he will ask Onestar once the leader looks a bit like himself." Cloudtail sighed softly. "I don't know why but I feel like this is some elaborate plan to attack us or something. I just can't seem to trust them." Brambleclaw threw a look at the tom as a WindClan she-cat passed by, dipping his head in a greeting. Tired, Ivypool glanced around for her sister so they could spend some time together, but she was helping Jayfeather and Leafpool with something. Ivypool decided a walk would cool her off so she headed out, tail tip swaying lightly. Only until she had reached the twoleg den did she realize where her paws had led her. She suddenly thought of Tigerheart and tensed, hoping he didn't happen to be there. Padding cautiously toward the den, she scented around before looking in. She didn't see anything, but most of the sides were shielded by the shade. After deciding it was safe, she hurried out to a spot were sunlight met the old wood and sat down, closing her eyes with a soft sigh. "What are you doing here?" She heard a voice call out. "This isn't clan territory." She glanced around, a flash of fear building up in her chest. The voice didn't sound like Tigerheart's, and she didn't exactly want to find out who it belonged to. She stood and hurried toward the exit, but was stopped shortly by a short brown tom jumping in her way. "You smell like that clan that's obsessed with trees." He snickered, tail lashing. "I don't know what you want with me, but I'll be leaving if you don't want me here." Ivypool mewed quickly, trying to edge the

fear out of her tone. "I feel that my friends don't want you leaving without a little... mark." He grinned, turning toward her a bit more. She heard small pawsteps behind her and made the mistake of looking around. She noticed cats on all sides, grinning mischievously and crawling toward her. *This must be a nightmare.. it can't be real, none of this is real.* She closed her eyes and braced for the impact of several claws. After a few moments, it didn't come. She opened her eyes slowly, noticing the cats were gone. *What? Where did they go?* She was confused before Brambleclaw and Whitewing appeared from the shadows. She breathed a sigh of relief before realizing they'd ask her why she was here, so close to ShadowClan territory. "I don't think you realize I'm still keeping an eye on you." Brambleclaw murmured, staring at her in suspicion. Ivypool frowned, refusing to look up at the tom. "Lets go back to camp. I won't ask any questions, but it better not happen again." Brambleclaw turned and began walking back toward camp, the two following him. "What if we hadn't shown up? You could've been killed!" Whitewing flustered, pressing against her daughter. Ivypool didn't answer, just silently wished Brambleclaw had picked another warrior that was more sensible. At camp, she had gone to cool down by eating a finch and thinking to herself. *Perhaps Tigerheart had something to do with it. What could he have done? He doesn't have powers like Dovewing to see what's happening here. There's no way he could've known I was going to the twoleg den. Maybe he wasn't involved at all...* She shook her head, glancing up to look around her. A flash of fear struck her when she noticed her sister wasn't around. *They always seem to be sharing looks at gatherings. What if she's teaming up with him to kill me?*

Chapter 23

Ivypool's POV

For the next few days, she had been avoiding any conversations since she was suspicious of everyone. She did her usual patrols and such, but didn't let anyone even ask her where someone was. She was getting strange looks from WindClan cats, and even some ThunderClan cats, but she didn't care. *Am I turning insane? Dovewing wouldn't team up with a ShadowClan cat. That's ridiculous.* She heard a hiss and glanced up, seeing an irritated Cloudtail in front of her. She was confused and just stared at him until he suddenly snarled at her. "Well, are you going to apologize?" He spat, narrowing his eyes. "Um, for what?" She asked, ears flattening. Had she missed another patrol? "You ran straight into me." He hissed, and she rolled her eyes. "Grow up." She muttered and walked away, toward the entrance. After a while of walking, she heard paw steps. But they didn't sound normal; they sounded lighter. As if a spirit was walking around. *Am I hearing things?* She wondered as she paused to glance around. "No.. you're not." A wispy yet familiar voice cackled. Names fluttered through her head until she remembered with a jolt. "Mapleshade?" She murmured cautiously. A grin appeared from the shadows as the she-cat revealed herself. "I need you to complete a... favor." Ivypool sat down, staring at her. "What kind of favor? Like, what you did to Crookedstar?" She asked with a frown. *My life could possibly be ruined if I say the wrong thing. Except- it won't just be my life. It'll be all of ThunderClan.* "Not exactly. I need you to assist me by hurting a few... traitors. You don't necessarily need to kill them, unless you feel the need to." Mapleshade snickered and didn't wait for Ivypool to say anything. "Your targets will be from ThunderClan." Ivypool's mind raced to the worst of thoughts. *What if she wants me to kill Dovewing? I can't do that. I'd never be able to hurt her.* "But, you'll have to wait a while. They aren't here yet." Mapleshade chuckled mischievously and started to fade. "You'll know who they are when they arrive." Ivypool, now alone, tried to comprehend what she was told. *Why would I need to hurt anyone? What could be so bad about them?* She decided to hunt a bit so she had an excuse for being alone for so long. *I'm hoping it doesn't have*

anything to do with Dovewing. There would be no way I could forgive myself if anything happened to her because of me. She perked her ears to scuttling nearby, but she stepped on a small twig and scared whatever animal it was away. She sighed, frustrated with herself. *I need to focus, otherwise everyone's going to think something's up.* She practically stepped on a squirrel, which squeaked and bolted for the nearest tree. Determined to catch it, she set off after the prey and clumsily leapt onto a tree. She followed the claw sounds of the squirrel but soon lost it to a small hole in the tree. "Mouse-dung." She muttered crossly, sitting down.

Returning to camp, she felt eyes on her as she walked in with nothing. She was embarrassed to have not been able to catch anything, but didn't bother speaking to anyone. She sat by herself nearby the warriors den to groom her fur when she was interrupted by Brambleclaw. "What's your reason today?" He asked with a small sigh, sitting beside her. Ivypool stayed silent and continued grooming her fur. "They're getting suspicious of you." He said softly. "And I'm pretty sure you don't want anyone thinking you're visiting another clan. Nobody will trust you." Ivypool stopped and looked at him. "And how do you think I'll get them to trust me? Talking to them? It's not like they'd want to listen to me anyway." She hissed stubbornly. Brambleclaw shook his head. "I know you think that everyone hates you. But they don't; they're just a little spooked by everything." She shook her head, refusing to believe him. "Even Dovewing wants to stay away from me." Tilting her head a bit, she narrowed her eyes. "How come you don't stay away from me?" She asked, suspicious. Brambleclaw paused, thinking. "As a deputy, I'm supposed to look out for everyone in the clan. Especially those who don't feel like they belong here. My goal is to make everyone feel welcomed and make sure everything's running smoothly." He explained, adjusting his paws a bit. "That includes you, no matter how much you think nobody cares." Ivypool shook her head. "Whatever." She mumbled, pretending like she didn't believe him. Honestly, she felt warmed by knowing he would stick up for her when everyone else would rather defend a rock. Brambleclaw dipped his head after moments of silence and walked away, heading toward a group of warriors. Ivypool glanced at the sky, wishing it was nighttime so she could just fall away into dreams. *What if Mapleshade makes me come to the Dark Forest again? They wouldn't*

want me there. I'd be killed almost instantly. Dovewing interrupted her thoughts by walking over; a bright smile on her face. "Hi," she chirped cheerfully. "Hey." Ivypool muttered unenthusiastically. Having her suspicions the day before, her sister was probably the last cat she wanted to talk to. *I can't just ignore her; she would bug me to know what's going on.* "Do you.." she would've said 'need something?' Sarcastically, but decided against it. "Need help with anything?" She forced her tone to come out polite. "No, just saying hi." She smiled again, eyes shining. "Oh. Well, hi." Ivypool noticed Bumblestripe approaching from the corner of her eye. Sighing lightly of relief that she didn't have to have an awkward conversation with her sister, she dipped her head toward the warrior. "Hey," Dovewing purred toward Bumblestripe, clearly happy with his presence. Ivypool glanced away, not wanting to interfere with them. But, of course, she was going to listen to their conversation. "How are you feeling?" The deeper voice said kindly, which received a quiet murmur of, "I'm alright." After a bit of small talk, Ivypool was getting bored with listening. "Would you like to go hunting?" Dovewing asked, a hint of excitement in her tone that Ivypool hardly picked up. *Why would she be excited to go hunting? Maybe she's planning something with someone and she's going to meet- That's ridiculous. She's taking Bumblestripe with her.* She didn't realize that Dovewing was asking a question until she tapped her lightly with a paw. "Ivypool? Do you want to come too?" Dovewing asked, a polite smile set on her face. It didn't seem necessarily real, but Ivypool didn't say anything about it. "Uh, no thanks." She muttered, unenthused about the idea of having to go with her and Bumblestripe. After they left, Ivypool grabbed from the fresh kill pile, ignoring the rude stare from a WindClan cat. She still didn't know most of their names other than Onestar, but others were becoming actual friends with them. *We are different clans. What would make them want to be friendly?* She thought in frustration, rolling her eyes. *Eventually there will be a battle and the poor things will have to fight.*

Ivypool had trouble falling asleep since she didn't exactly do anything too tiring that day, as well as her mind was filled with different thoughts. She couldn't help but worry that Mapleshade would force her back to the Dark Forest and she'd have to see Tigerstar. If she went back, she would most likely be killed, or

badly injured. The Place of No Stars' leader didn't take too kindly to those who leave without permission. She didn't realize she had gotten any sleep until she woke up to Spiderlegs standing with an angry expression beside her nest. "You're lucky we didn't leave without you. Get up, we're going now." He growled, stalking out of the den to join the patrol that Ivypool was late for. Grumbling, she stood up and quickly licked down her fur so she didn't seem too messy. She dazed around until finding Spiderlegs and followed him out of camp. The patrol was boring as usual; everyone caught a piece of prey, while Ivypool struggled to keep a small mouse from escaping her. She had improved from her dead-stare walk, though. The group of four dispersed to go talk to others, and Ivypool sat toward the middle of camp to give herself a better wash. After a while, she got up and exited camp for a walk around the territory. Her paws carried her swiftly toward the ShadowClan border, since she had heard the border patrols from earlier hadn't gotten to ShadowClan yet. While she was scouting around, a patrol stopped by so she had to detour a bit away in case they decided to attack her. Crouching a bit away behind a bush, she heard the low call of a tom's voice, but couldn't make out who it was or what they said. After waiting until she felt like they left, she stood and rounded the bush to be face-to-face with Tigerheart. "You're not very good at hiding." He chuckled, amusing himself. "Yeah, well it's better than you who purposely goes out of your way to talk to some random ThunderClan cat." She snorted sarcastically. "What do you want anyway?" Tigerheart shrugged. "Thought I'd say a friendly hello." Ivypool rolled her eyes, not believing it for a second. *Yeah, like he'd ever be friends with me.* "Clearly that's not true, so spill it." Tigerheart sighed, sitting. "I don't know, I figured you'd have something to say to me. You know... like, an apology?" Ivypool flattened her ears, surprised. "For what?" She spat. "I've done nothing bad to you." Her voice wavered a bit. "You shattered my heart, left me alone in the Dark Forest, completely ignored me... Is that good enough of an excuse for you?" Tigerheart hissed lightly. "Half of those things we shouldn't even be doing!" She spluttered. "You expect me to apologize for going against my clan for some low-life deceiving tom?" Tigerheart glanced around quickly. "First of all, the only one who's been deceiving is you. And second of all, keep your voice down. If my patrol hears you, we will both get in trouble." Ivypool calmed herself, but was still irritated. "Sorry." She muttered. "What

was that? I didn't hear you." Tigerheart smirked. "I'm sorry." Ivypool hissed through gritted teeth, a mouse-length away from clawing him. "That's better." He purred. "See you around, Ivypool." He turned, quickly brushing his tail under her chin before disappearing across the border. Ivypool sighed, now alone again and wondering if she should go back to camp or not. *Why am I so mad at him?* She thought, turning to head back toward camp. She planned on taking her time getting there so she could think. *He hasn't really done anything to hurt me... if anything, he should be the one who's mad, and yet he's always eager to talk to me. I shouldn't be so hard on him, but it's hard when he's not in the same clan. Things could be so much simpler...*

Chapter 24

Ivypool's POV

Camp life hadn't been very interesting for the next few days. Patrols continued as normal, but today was when Onestar decided WindClan could leave. She didn't know where they would be going, but she was glad they would stop taking up all the nests in the warriors den. Since there were only enough nests for the ThunderClan cats, they were told to share or give up their nest. Of course, since she wasn't going to stand sharing with one of the rabbit-chasers, she slept without a nest in the back; which also created problems for when she woke earlier than others and had to carefully maneuver around them. Her sister had been a bit more perked up but always had a look of fear and guilt when she figured no one was looking. Ivypool didn't understand it, but she wasn't going to ask. "All cats old enough to cat their own prey gather beneath the high rock!" Firestar yowled suddenly, and she made her way to join the other warriors. "As you all know, we have been letting Onestar and his warriors stay here until they were able to rebuild their camp to a makeshift home." He began when everyone was gathered. "Today, Onestar has decided that their camp was well enough to go back. I will have a few of our warriors go with them to make sure they get back safely, but will come back when Onestar instructs." Ivypool's fur prickled, and she wondered if he was really worried about their safety or if he was remembering they were a different clan on hostile territory. *Who knows what they could do on their way back? We could go out to a closer border and stolen prey for all we know.* She toned back in to what Firestar was saying. "...leg, Graystripe, Squirrelflight, and Cloudtail." He dipped his head, leaping down as the four mentioned cats joined the group of WindClan cats. Ivypool sighed, remembering that her father had been taken by the gruesome battle that destroyed their camp. *Is it my fault? My fault for being so hostile toward the WindClan cats? I'm sorry StarClan, it's just normally how I would treat other clans...* She figured that wouldn't do much and she wouldn't get an answer, but she at least tried. *Besides, StarClan probably hates me because I worked with the Dark Forest. I don't blame them for that.* As she was

thinking of the dark place, she wondered if she should go back. She'd get to see Tigerheart again, and maybe be a bit more friendly toward him. She spent time thinking about how badly she would be punished for leaving in the first place, but was called for a hunting patrol. *Focus; make sure to catch something. Show the clan you're not worthless.* She walked behind Sandstorm and Bumblestripe, pretending to be a bit enthusiastic.

After their hunt, she had caught a squirrel and two mice, with not many issues. She was able to have a small chat with Sandstorm while they waited for Bumblestripe to come back, which was good. Back at camp, it felt a lot bigger with the few less cats taking up space. Quiet murmurs of conversations floated around as she made her way to the fresh kill pile and set her pieces down. Ivypool then looked up at the sky and noticed it was getting darker, which made her heart spark with a bit of nervousness. Tonight she would be returning to the Dark Forest to see what has been happening. *I shouldn't get too badly hurt... I didn't tell anyone about what the Dark Forest is planning.* She walked to the warriors den, passing by Brambleclaw and Lionblaze who were talking about something. She didn't bother to listen since she didn't necessarily care. She found where her nest was, which had been pushed over a bit. The den still smelled like WindClan and she scrunched up her nose, sighing. She noticed through the entrance of the den that cats moved toward the entrance of camp with trills of excitement. *Probably the escort patrol.* She shrugged, wanting to hear if anything happened, but didn't bother to get out of her nest. Soon enough she had fallen asleep as everyone was filing in to go to sleep as well. It was longer than usual before she stirred to wake up in the Place of No Stars. She wondered if she missed anything important before she felt a paw on her side roughly shoving her to get up. "I see you've come back." The familiar deep voice muttered, and Ivypool turned to look at Hawkfrost. "I promise you I haven't said anything to anyone." She meowed quickly, to make sure he was aware she wasn't being disloyal. "Good for you. Now go find someone to train with." Ivypool nodded and walked away, glancing around. She heard some cat saying something nearby so she hurried over. She noticed two cats she didn't recognize, but still asked if she could train with them. It was hard to get back into using Dark Forest moves for training, but she didn't do too badly. *Probably a newbie here; the*

other cat seemed to be pretty disappointed in them for barely beating me. When everyone was mainly done with their training, she padded away and had a little walk around to get herself back into the 'Dark Forest' mood. She found herself in the main meeting area and sighed, looking at the large tree trunks that the leaders sat on. "Are you imagining yourself up there one day?" A cat murmured, walking up beside Ivypool. "Wha- Oh, um, hey Tigerheart. I- No, I don't imagine myself up there." Tigerheart grinned. "You're finally over being rude toward me?" Ivypool narrowed her eyes, sighing. "Whatever. I was only rude because you're an easy person to be rude to." She scoffed, looking back toward the tree trunks. "You know, you aren't so bad when you're not mad at anyone. Speaking of that; why are you always so mad at everyone?" Tigerheart murmured, still looking at her. "Did someone do something to you?" Ivypool was silent, as she was thinking. *I guess I'm just upset about Birchfall... right?* Tigerheart waited for an answer, but soon realized the she-cat had zoned out. "Ivypool?" She looked up, suddenly sparked into reality. "Oh, sorry." She mumbled, sighing. "It's complicated." She finally said, even though it wasn't very difficult to understand; she just wasn't a very friendly cat. "Okay, well, see you tomorrow I guess." Tigerheart meowed and closed his eyes, soon fading away. Ivypool did the same and disappeared into sleep.

A/N

Yay, another one of these.

For anyone who has read the whole book up until this point, thank you. No, I'm not ending it, just making sure everyone is alright with my slow updates and terrible chapters.

If anyone is recommending this story to others, please make sure they know to either skip until about chapter 17 or wait on judging the book until that point. As I had started this book, I had no great expectations for it and I was a terrible writer, as you can tell. I had no idea what I was doing, and my chapters were short and not interesting at all.

Now, I know it's still not very good, but I feel that I've become a bit better after I took my break from writing to focus on my real life outside of social media. I still enjoy writing this book, I just don't get the same motivation and excitement as I did before. The main reason updates are slow is because without motivation, I feel that what I write isn't interesting nor something that anyone would read. I want to be able to write interesting and exciting chapters that will keep you guys wanting more, which is why I'm taking my time on creating chapters that I think will be better content for you.

I've personally grown out of the Warriors fandom, but that isn't going to stop me from completing this book for those who love it and want more. I'm sorry to the people who started reading and stopped because of no updates and/or uninteresting chapters. I'd like to thank everyone who's read this book, commented, and voted, as it boosted my confidence for a while when I was first starting on Wattpad.

Chapters will start to come normally (I'm hoping) soon enough, and I hope it's better for you guys to read.

Side-note: If it seems like time is going by quickly, it's because I have ideas for future events that will be happening, but there's

nothing I can write except boring filler chapters for now.

Side-side-note (7-30-17): Since school is starting in a few weeks, I'm going to try to finish it before then. I won't have any free time, but if I do, it will be used to do something other than write this. It'll be quick and most likely poorly written, and I apologize, but I would rather have this finished now than wait an entire year.

Chapter 25

Ivypool's POV

She had gotten more trusted at the Dark Forest, which was a good and bad thing. If she was more trusted, she would have more freedom. But to be trusted, she had to work harder at the Dark Forest and spend more time there, which created some suspicion from clanmates as to why she had so many wounds. She didn't mind getting hurt; she just didn't want to be the center of attention for it. Getting snapped out of her thoughts, she quickly hurried out of the warriors den to see what needed help with. Ivypool decided she would patrol a bit near the WindClan border, and maybe catch something. "Hey Ivypool, could we join you? We have nothing else to do." Lionblaze asked, walking over with Cinderheart. "Yeah, sure." She replied and waited until they caught up before continuing going out of camp. The patrol went well, the three having found nothing too suspicious along the border but too busy in conversation to hunt. Ivypool felt a bit proud of herself since she didn't shy away from talking like she normally would. At camp, she mostly lulled around and occasionally helped out with something, like picking something up for Jayfeather or chatting with another warrior. Brambleclaw rushed into camp with Spiderleg and Bumblestripe, heading off to Firestar while the other two dispersed into camp. "We found traces of a fox at the edge of the border near ShadowClan, but it wasn't too urgent. No signs of any dens around, but there were some remains of prey scattered." Ivypool listened in on their conversation, interest sparking. "Alright. I'll make sure to let Blackstar know at the next gathering." Firestar nodded, dismissing the deputy. Ivypool sat by herself, getting lost in thought again. *Mapleshade didn't say anything to me at the last few visits to the Dark Forest. Maybe she was just trying to scare me? Her asking me to do something seems a bit off, especially when she could've chosen anyone else more trustworthy in the Dark Forest. Perhaps I could ask Tigerheart what to do, he might give me some advice.* She sighed, trying to think of who Mapleshade was talking about. *She said they're not here yet, so she must be talking about kits. There could also be some rogues that are going to join. I don't know how many I'm*

looking for either; she said it was more than one, though. Ivypool stood and made her way to the fresh kill pile, as she only had a squirrel earlier that day. She picked up a shrew, carrying it away to eat alone. Bringing up her attitude wasn't very easy, as she had a natural instinct to be rude toward others. But making friends in the clan and being trusted was important, since if she was ever accused of doing something, others wouldn't believe that it was her. Dovewing walked over with a smile, but it seemed off. "Hey Ivypool!" She meowed happily. Ivypool nodded a greeting back, finishing up her shrew. "While we're on that topic, want to go hunting? Just the two of us?" Dovewing smiled, yet small waves of nervousness were coming from her. "We weren't talking about hunting though." Ivypool frowned, getting suspicious. *What is she so happy about today?* "Oh, but we are now! Come on, the prey won't wait forever!" Dovewing began quickly trotting toward the entrance, and Ivypool reluctantly followed.

"How come you didn't invite Bumblestripe this time?" Ivypool asked curiously, starting to enjoy having time with Dovewing to herself. Usually she was off being important somewhere, leaving Ivypool behind. After a few moments of walking in silence, Ivypool frowned. *Something must have happened between them.* "If something ever happens you know you can talk to me." Ivypool murmured, and she noticed Dovewing stiffen. "That's... that's why I brought you out here. I didn't bring Bumblestripe because he already knows." Dovewing answered and stopped, turning toward her sister. Ivypool narrowed her eyes, looking at her. She took a deep breath before smiling nervously and telling Ivypool what she brought her out here for. "I'm expecting kits."

A/N: A bit of a shorter one, only 701 words. Hope you enjoyed!

Chapter 26

Ivypool's POV

Kits? She's expecting kits? How didn't I notice? Why didn't she tell me sooner? Ivypool wandered around camp, seeing her sister happily talking to Bumblestripe. *I'm glad she's found someone to love and have a family with, but it just seems weird; as if something's wrong with her having kits. But it's perfectly normal for a she-cat to have kits.* She sighed, walking over to the patrol with Firestar, Squirrelflight, and Millie. The three others where having a friendly conversation, but Ivypool didn't feel like being social today. "Ivypool, check around the ShadowClan border to see if that fox has returned yet. Squirrelflight and I will head toward the edges of the territory near the lake, and Millie can mark nearby the WindClan border. Call for help if you find anything," Firestar instructed, and they all separated to go where they were told. Ivypool was walking from memory, trapped in her own thoughts when the strong smell of ShadowClan drifted through her nose. *Mouse-dung, I crossed the border.* She hurried backwards, only to find herself stopped by someone speaking. "Oh, look what we have here. Seems like someone's trying to steal from our territory," Tigerheart appeared into her vision with a smirk. "Haha, very funny. I wasn't stealing anything, just busy with my own thoughts." She responded with a smile of her own. "Whatcha thinking about?" He asked curiously, and Ivypool frowned a little. "I'll tell you later, but right now I have to check for any signs of the fox that was around here." She turned to walk along the border, yet Tigerheart followed. "That's odd, I was sent to do the same." He chuckled, and she shrugged. "It seems as if we have the same problems then," Ivypool sniffed at the base of a tree before looking around. "You're lucky we're friends, otherwise I would've had to send you off with some scratches." Tigerheart said, looking over at Ivypool. "Pff, like you could hurt anything." She smirked, making fun of him. "Hey, I did some pretty good damage at the Forest last time." Ivypool stiffened, pricking her ears. "Keep your voice down, I don't know if my patrol is going to come back, and Firestar came with us. You know how badly Tigerstar will punish us if anything gets heard about the Forest." She moved

closer so he could still hear while she attempted to talk in a quieter tone. Tigerheart rolled his eyes, turning around. "Whatever, see you later." He dipped his head and Ivypool did the same before they went their separate ways. She heard voices and moved toward them, recognizing Firestar and Squirrelflight. "Anything?" He asked when she joined them, and Ivypool shook her head. "Nope, I'm pretty sure it's gone by now. Must've smelled the border markings." She followed them until they paused to wait for Millie, who appeared a few moments later. Once the patrol was back at camp, Ivypool glanced to the sky and noticed it was near nighttime. She smiled a bit, happy to return to the Dark Forest. She sometimes wished she had never gone there in the first place, but other times she appreciated she had the chance to be there. The warriors filed in to the den, making themselves comfortable in their nests and falling asleep. Ivypool woke in the Place of No Stars and began to walk toward their normal meeting place when she heard a whisper. "*Just a little longer...*" She froze, not knowing who said it or where it came from. She shook her head and continued, figuring she was just hearing things. *This is the Dark Forest, after all.* "Hi Ivypool!" Tigerheart greeted happily, walking over to join her. "Hey, up for the usual training?" She asked, and he nodded. "Yeah, but first, I want to know what you were going to tell me. You seemed a bit sad about it," he frowned, walking beside Ivypool as they made their way toward their little training area. "Oh, about that. I'm not really sad, but something just seems off about it. Dovewing is expecting," she informed him, and he stiffened, only to quickly go back to normal. "Oh, that's cool." He said in a lower tone, and she frowned. *Something's wrong. I'm not going to ask him about it, but I know he doesn't usually act this way. Maybe he'll be okay by tomorrow.* Training went as normal, except for Tigerheart not being as talkative. He seemed a bit more distant and made more mistakes. As Ivypool was leaving the Dark Forest, she couldn't help but think about everything. She didn't want to assume anything too quickly, but she felt as if something happened between the two. *I'm not going to ask Dovewing since she'll most likely get upset that I just blatantly accused her of doing something wrong. I'm not going to ask Tigerheart since I know I should trust him, and he might just get mad at me and say something he regrets. It's best to stay back and figure things out on my own. Plus, if Tigerheart and I are friends, why can't he just be friends with Dovewing?* Ivypool shook out her fur and frowned, looking

around the den before laying down to sleep. It was before dawn and she didn't have to get up for the patrol so she figured she could get a bit more sleep.

Chapter 27

Ivypool's POV

"Ivypool, could you please help me with this moss? I think I grabbed too much of it for me to carry." Dovewing dropped a ball of moss she was carrying to ask her sister for help. "Wait, you're moving to the nursery already?" Ivypool frowned, picking up the moss and following Dovewing. "Yeah, it's not too long until they're going to be born. I'm so excited, aren't you? You're going to be the first cat I go to when I need help other than Bumblestripe. Oh, they're going to be so cute! You can help me name..." Ivypool faded off from listening to her sister ramble and thought about the kits on her own. *At least I'll get to spend more time with her. Kits are always cute, especially when they're related to me.* Ivypool came back to reality and dropped the moss where Dovewing told her to, beginning to spread it in a nest. "Thanks Ivypool, you're the best!" Dovewing purred while Ivypool trotted away. She turned toward the medicine den curiously, hearing a cough. "Whitewing, you need to eat this. I know you don't want to waste anything, but I assure you that we have plenty." Ivypool frowned, heading to the den since her mother's name was mentioned. "Mom, just eat it. Staying sick isn't going to help the clan." She murmured, sitting toward the entrance of the den. Whitewing sighed and gave in, eating the herbs. *I hope whatever she has isn't too bad.* "It's just a few signs of a cold, nothing to worry about. I just wanted to make sure it doesn't get any worse." Jayfeather informed Ivypool once her mother left. "Alright, thanks." Ivypool quickly trotted out of the den and glanced around. She decided to leave camp and patrol a bit to make sure nothing was going on, and possibly catch something while she was out. Ivypool was checking the border along the twoleg dens when she heard something behind her. Quickly spinning around, she noticed a kittypet jumping down from a fence and unsheathed her claws. "Hello!" He said in a friendly tone. "This is clan territory." Ivypool hissed, staring at the tom threateningly. "Oh, I know. I'm so fascinated by clans! Can you please tell me more? I'd love to know how you can all live in one place without any housefolk." He asked enthusiastically. She didn't know what he meant by housefolk, but

she assumed he meant twolegs. "Well, we don't need to rely on housefolk, since we have skills of hunting. We all get along well and protect each other. Housefolk are predators to us." Ivypool replied, making sure she didn't give out too much information. "That's so cool! Can you show me how to hunt? Maybe I could be a clan cat!" Ivypool was reluctant to show him how to hunt, especially since he would most likely start taking prey from ThunderClan territory; but she didn't want to turn down his excitement. She showed him the basics of hunting, giving him a few tips about battling as well. He learned quickly and was keen on listening to what she said, since he was so interested. "I think that's enough training for you. That's mainly everything you need to know, and you learned it pretty quickly." The tom nodded, smiling. "If you're looking to join us, I would strongly suggest thinking it out for a few days. It's not all fun being a clan cat; it takes a lot of hard work. You'll need to go through more training as well, and let everyone get used to you. If you decide you *really* want to join, wait out here and I'll make sure our leader knows about you." Ivypool told him and began to walk back toward camp. She felt good about herself for being nice to him, and not just pushing him back to his twolegs. The clan needed more cats anyway, and the kittypet was pretty good at what she showed him. Once she was back at camp, she looked around for Firestar. *He will definitely consider letting the kittypet join since he was once in the same position. I just hope the rest of the clan is okay with it as well.* "Firestar?" She called into his den. "Come in." He replied, and Ivypool walked in. She noticed Sandstorm was in with him, and she dipped her head politely. "What do you need?" Firestar asked. "I met this kittypet when I was patrolling the border earlier, and he was really interested in our clan. He wanted to know how to hunt, and what it was like to live here without twolegs. I just taught him the basics of hunting, but he learned pretty quickly and I told him that if he wanted to join he needed to think about it. I wanted to let you know in case he decides to join." Ivypool explained, and Firestar nodded. "Thank you for putting him into consideration; most clan cats wouldn't do that. You may go now." Ivypool nodded and exited the den, heading off to the warriors den to sleep.

A/N: Sorry for not updating according to my 'schedule', I'll make sure to follow it from now on.

Chapter 28

Ivypool's POV

"Nice work Ivypool, you've definitely improved since the first time you joined us. I'm glad that you're taking this seriously." Hawkfrost complimented, walking over to Ivypool who had just finished training with some other Dark Forest member. "Oh, thanks." She said awkwardly, not used to compliments. Hawkfrost looked at her for a bit longer before dipping his head and retreating, leaving her to ponder why he said that. *He must be looking for the loyal cats so he can get rid of the ones who just fool around.* She shuddered, thinking about how they 'got rid' of cats. *I hope they weren't much to their clans.* She exited the Dark Forest, sleeping for the rest of the night. Ivypool was woken early at dawn to patrol with Cloudtail and Dustpelt along the WindClan border and check around the lake. It went normally, finding nothing other than the scent drifting across from the wind. Ivypool trudged beside the two older warriors, frowning. *I wonder where Tigerheart was last night. Usually I'm the only one he trains with, but he probably had something important to do.* When she returned to camp, she grabbed a mouse and joined Briarlight to have a small conversation since she seemed lonely. Ivypool had later decided to take a nap while laying in the sun since the weather was beginning to get hotter. She smiled, happy that her sister would be having kits in Greenleaf, which is one of the better times to have kits. "Hey, could I join you? The sun is nice today. Hopefully it'll be like that for a few more days," Blossomfall asked with a kind smile, laying nearby Ivypool when she nodded. They stayed in a comfortable silence as the two fell asleep, getting much-needed naps since they both spent time at the Dark Forest. *It's strange; I don't see Blossomfall at the Dark Forest much. She must be off training with someone else who I also don't see much. Now that I think about it, the only cats I normally see are Tigerheart and the 'leaders' of the Forest.* Ivypool yawned as she rolled onto her paws, still a bit tired from sleeping. She glanced to the sky and noticed it was near sundown, so she hurried to see if anyone needed her help. "Hey, Ivypool!" Dovewing called from the entrance to the nursery, flashing a bright smile. Ivypool returned a smile and dipped her

head, walking over. "You seemed like you had nothing to do, so I figured we could talk a bit. I mean, unless you're busy; I don't want to hold you back from completing-" Ivypool laughed, interrupting her. "Just because I'm a warrior doesn't mean I'm always busy. Yes, I can talk to you." She meowed, causing her sister to laugh as well. "Okay, well I was wondering how the last gathering was, since I wasn't able to go." Dovewing asked. "Oh, nothing really happened. Onestar said something about how RiverClan was trying to take prey, but everyone doubted it since RiverClan usually eats fish anyway." Ivypool informed her, and Dovewing tilted her head as if she was thinking. "That could be a really smart plan if you think about it. RiverClan is making sure everyone knows they eat fish so if they steal anything nobody with suspect them." Ivypool was taken aback and thought about that as well. *RiverClan isn't that smart, right? If they are, then I guess it wouldn't be too bad for us since they're on the other side of the lake.* "It's getting pretty late, I'm going to sleep. Goodnight Ivypool." Dovewing murmured, turning and walking to her nest in the nursery. Ivypool hurried off to the warriors den and got comfortable in her nest so she could fall asleep quickly, not wanting to show up late to the Forest. When she got there, Ivypool looked around before deciding to walk through the Forest a bit. She was familiar with most of the paths and clearings there since she had been to the Forest so many times. "Tigerheart!" Ivypool meowed excitedly as she noticed the ShadowClan warrior appearing nearby. "Oh, hey Ivypool." He greeted, walking over. "Before we start training, I want to know what's up. You've been much quieter and I didn't see you at all yesterday." Ivypool asked, concern flashing in her eyes. "Nothing's wrong, Ivypool. I just wasn't feeling like being very social and yesterday I was guarding the entrance." Tigerheart explained, frowning. Ivypool sighed, looking at the ground. *I guess I'm just a little paranoid, but I don't know why. I should just let it go.* "Well, you wanna get training or just stand here?" She picked up her enthusiasm, looking at him again. "Sure, but this time I know I'll beat you." He smiled and walked after her.

A/N: Sorry if this one has mistakes, I was having some bad writers block yesterday and most of today so I wasn't able to read over it much since I wanted to get a chapter out for you.

Chapter 29

Dovewing's POV
I can't let her know, no matter how much guilt I feel. It would ruin everything. She's okay with this, she's not suspicious, it can stay that way. Dovewing paced in the nursery, settling down after a while.

Ivypool's POV
"Good morning." Ivypool mumbled grumpily, upset that Tigerheart had gotten mad at her the night before. Brambleclaw sighed, waiting for her to join the patrol of three. "What now?" He asked, and she shook her head. "I'm fine." Ivypool answered, walking over to Lionblaze and just wanting to get the patrol over with. It was hot and she didn't want to stay long. After checking both borders, she felt like Brambleclaw was purposely making her spend time with them. He kept trying to talk to her to find out what was bothering her, but Ivypool didn't feel like spoiling the biggest secret of her life and possibly ruining everything. "Alright, I think that's good for today. Let's head back." Brambleclaw announced, and Ivypool sighed gratefully. She took the lead back to camp, wanting to just be by herself. Unfortunately, her attention was brought to a crowd around the nursery. She frowned, hurrying over and pushing her way to the front, suspecting it was her sister. "Ivypool! I'm so glad you're here!" Dovewing purred, sounding tired and out of breath. Ivypool smiled brightly at her sister and a proud Bumblestripe who was next to her. She looked down to see the kits and froze. All of them but one were brown. *What? Dovewing and Bumblestripe are grey though... how could the kits be brown?* Ivypool sat carefully beside her mother, who was beaming with pride. "We can all name one." Dovewing murmured, wrapping her tail securely around her kits. The three discussed kit names while Ivypool faded into her own thoughts. *I'm trying so hard not to make assumptions, but I can't help but think that she must've had kits with someone other than Bumblestripe. I don't know anyone in ThunderClan that she got close to, but she couldn't have gone with someone in another clan... right?* Ivypool excused herself and quickly walked into the forest, feeling stuffy and hot. She felt like if she stayed any longer she would've

suffocated. She knew they were going to ask questions, but she didn't care; it's not like she was obligated to answer them. Ivypool paused, looking at the lake. It seemed smaller than when she went out earlier, but it didn't look too bad. Walking over to it, she gently dipped a paw in and smiled. The gentle ripples of the water calmed her. "Ivypool?" She heard a voice behind her, pulling her away from her thoughts. *How long was I out here?* Ivypool wondered when she noticed the sky getting darker. "Ivypool, everyone's worried about you. Why did you leave so fast?" Whitewing frowned. "I felt really suffocated with all those cats crowded around the small den." Ivypool replied with a mumble, beginning to walk back toward camp. "Okay, well she wants you to name the last kit. The three names right now are Finchkit, Amberkit, and Tigerkit. Aren't they so cute?" Ivypool was suddenly struck with understanding. *Tigerheart! Of course, why would they have been giving each other looks at gatherings? And Dovewing had to have been meeting him before. How could she do that? How could he do that to me? I thought he loved me.* "Ivypool? Hello?" Whitewing sighed, tapping her daughter with her tail. "You're naming the silver one. Choose carefully though, I think Bumblestripe wanted to name that one." Ivypool nodded, thinking of names. *They're half-clan kits; they deserve to be treated like half-clan kits.* She began to feel anger crawling through her head. *The little fox-dung shouldn't be named, they should just be thrown to the river and washed away for everyone to laugh at. Those rats shouldn't exist.* "Willowkit." Ivypool finally decided, sitting next to her sister. "That's a beautiful name. Thank you." She purred, nuzzling Willowkit. *She looks so happy, but it can't last. She broke the warrior code, so she has to pay.* At night when she went to the Dark Forest, her mind was only focused on Tigerheart. *He betrayed me. How could he? I haven't done anything wrong.* She stormed past other cats, looking around furiously to find the familiar brown tabby. "Explain everything." She spat once she spotted him. "Huh?" He frowned, taking a step back since she was so mad. "With Dovewing! Her kits look exactly like you, and there's only one reason for that. Explain yourself, fox-dung!" Ivypool unsheathed her claws, glaring at him. "Nothing happened between us." Tigerheart mumbled, causing Ivypool to claw him across the face. "Tell me!" She roared. "Fine! I'm the father of those kits, and she's lied to everyone except me. Are you happy now? Do you feel accomplished? Because guess what; I don't care. No ones going to believe you since you're insane. I'm ashamed to

say I ever loved you." Tigerheart snarled, and Ivypool stumbled back. "You... you betrayed me. How could you do that? I'm so broken because of you! I loved you and you don't even care. The only thing you care about is yourself." Ivypool felt tears forming at her eyes. "That's not true. You're just delusional. Goodbye Ivypool, and tell your sister I said hey." Tigerheart turned and walked away to find someone to train with. *He can't get away with this. You can't just do that to someone and expect them to be okay.* Ivypool stood in the same position, staring at the spot where Tigerheart stood moments ago. *"Go, Ivypool. Do what you must."* She tensed at the voice, but steadied herself. *I will do what I must; I must kill those kits.*

Chapter 30 (end)

Ivypool's POV

In a blind rage, she had hardly any time to plan before she attacked. She was so angry that it clouded her mind from the thought of her getting caught. *I don't need to worry about that, everyone's too mouse-brained to figure out anything. But I'm smart. I'm the smart one who figured out that Dovewing's a traitor.* Ivypool stepped through the warriors' nests without caution, not caring anymore. Those kits had to die. They would cause so much destruction; but Ivypool was going to stop it. At the entrance of the nursery, she looked at the kits with the light from the moon. Fury burned in her eyes and she growled lowly before walking over to the nest. She picked up Finchkit, throwing her at the wall and quickly clawing her. She didn't realize what she was doing until she was finished. The kits' squeals before they died gave her motivation that she was doing the right thing. *I'm doing this for the sake of ThunderClan; how is that wrong?* "Ivypool?" She heard a frail voice in front of her, and glanced up to the entrance of the den. There stood Blossomfall, eyes filled with fear and a shocked expression visible on her face. "Help! Ivypool killed Dovewing's kits!" She yowled, tripping over her paws as she desperately tried to get away. Ivypool stared in horror as cats woke up, joining Blossomfall in confusion. "Ivypool, what have you done?" Firestar frowned. "Sh-she had kits with a ShadowClan cat! I was d-doing the clan a f-favor and getting rid of them!" Ivypool shouted, backing up. Dovewing's sobs could be heard beside her as she noticed the state of three of her kits, while clutching her last kit tightly. "How can we believe you? You haven't given us any reason to trust you, Ivypool." He said calmly. "Just hear me out! She's a t-traitor and her kits deserved this! They would've been the destruction of ThunderClan!" She retaliated, looking around. Everyone was staring at her with either confusion or hatred, and she felt suddenly like she was suffocating. "Ivypool, due to your unreasonable actions and distrust among the clan, you are now banished from returning to this camp or territory. I will make sure the other leaders know that you are a threat and should be chased away immediately. You will be escorted out of the territory, and my

warriors have my permission to attack you if they see you near the border." Firestar announced, and everything seemed like it stopped for Ivypool. *I'm... exiled?* It took her a while to process things before she was being shoved away from her home. Her paws carried her toward the forest, almost working on their own since her mind was lost. She couldn't correctly comprehend what was happening. She heard the two escorts muttering to each other behind her, but couldn't understand what they were saying. *This is all Tigerheart's fault. All the pain he caused so many cats is what made me do this. It's not my fault.* Ivypool stumbled across the grass, smelling the strong scent of the border line. She frowned, turning to look back at the two cats who accompanied her. Dustpelt and Icecloud stared back at her coldly, lashing their tails as a warning. Ivypool quickly turned and left, having no idea where she was going to go. *I'm a nobody. My clan hates me. I'm crazy. But what am I going to do now?* She kept walking, exploring the unknown parts of the world past the border.

Dovewing's POV

Dovewing quickly slipped through the dirtplace tunnel, turning to make sure Willowkit followed behind her. "Mo-" Willowkit began to complain, but was quickly hushed by her mother. "I know it stinks, but you need to stay quiet. We're going to go see someone." Dovewing murmured, looking around the moonlight area to see if anyone was walking around. "Let's go Willowkit." She whispered and walked quickly toward the ShadowClan border, her kit following. "Tigerheart?" Dovewing called out softly, smelling the strong ShadowClan border. "I was hoping you'd come," Tigerheart purred, walking over to her. Dovewing stiffened, frowning. "I thought you told me there were four kits?" He asked, face dropping. "She-" Dovewing started, but felt the grief striking her hard. "She killed them." Dovewing whispered, tears falling quickly down her face. "Who? Who killed them? Who killed our kits?" Tigerheart's tone dropped, anger melting through his words. "I-Ivy..." Dovewing sobbed, not able to continue. "What?" Tigerheart snarled, letting Dovewing lean against him for support. Willowkit stared at them, confused. "Who's this, momma?" She asked, pushing against her mother's legs. "I'll explain when you're older." Dovewing told her softly, licking Willowkit's head. They stood together for a while in a comfortable silence, the only tension coming from the anger of

Tigerheart and Dovewing's sadness. "Don't do anything stupid, Tigerheart." She told him, stepping back. "I'll try not to." He replied and turned slightly, looking at her. "See you around." He murmured before retreating back to his clan's territory, Dovewing doing the same.

Ivypool's POV

She had wandered around for a few days, occasionally finding a puddle to drink from and prey that she could catch. Ivypool's mind seemed to be more lost than she was; the only problem was that she couldn't find the right way with her head. *I know there was a squirrel around here, I saw it pass by. Or was it a fox? No, it had to be a squirrel. Right?* She stalked around a tree and smelled mouse. *Oh well, I was close.* Ivypool quickly leapt toward the creature, turning in the middle and trying to stop it. Her paw landed sharply and twisted, causing her to tumble onto the ground. She whimpered, sitting up to examine the wound, and frowned. *I'm not a medicine cat, and there's none that will help me. How do I fix this?* Ivypool tried standing up, but fell to sit down with a yelp. *Okay, don't stand on that leg.* She stood again and held her back paw up, making sure she could walk alright. "Technically, no ones around to hear me, so I can talk all I want." She felt weird speaking to nobody in particular at first, but got use to it. "I've gone past the ShadowClan border, so I should be more careful." Ivypool murmured, scenting the air. She didn't smell anything nearby so she continued, occasionally stopping to try and hunt. "Hey, I smell something!" Ivypool heard a voice and froze, listening. She heard paw steps quickly walking in her direction and started running toward the border, but was stopped by Blackstar. "Ivypool? You need to leave this territory." He growled with warning, and she nodded. "Yeah, I'll be gone in no time. Don't worry about me." Ivypool started crawling backward, turning to start running again. "Now!" Tawnypelt snarled, scratching at Ivypool's flank when she didn't move. Ivypool yelped and took off toward the border, looking behind her occasionally. "Alright, let's not do that again." She huffed, in the unknown forest. She wandered around more, talking in low mutters or whispers, searching for a place to sleep for the night. She was a rogue, traveling around and hoping to find comfort somewhere. She eventually found a dip under some roots and crawled in, her tail and back paws sticking out. She felt the burning pain in the

scratches on her flank and frowned, knowing she wouldn't be able to fix them. It took a while, but she fell asleep uncomfortably. She opened her eyes expecting it to be morning, but instead she was in the Dark Forest. "Ivypool." A female voice whispered, and Ivypool tensed. "You did what I asked." Mapleshade grinned, sitting in front of Ivypool. "You got me exiled." Ivypool hissed, standing. She didn't feel the pain from her leg anymore, which made her smile. "No, you got yourself exiled. You didn't have to do what I told you." Mapleshade replied, laughing at Ivypool's angry face. "You tricked me! You made me go crazy! You made me do it!" She snarled, fur puffing up. She unsheathed her claws, wanting to rip that smug look off of Mapleshade's face. "It's not like I care; you're the one who has to live with the guilt." Mapleshade snickered, standing and beginning to walk away. "Wait! Come back here! I'm not done talking to you!" Ivypool yowled, chasing after her. Hawkfrost suddenly appeared running beside her and knocked Ivypool to the side to stop her. "You need to leave and get some rest. There are a few cats here that aren't very happy with you." He said quickly. *A few? Why do other cats hate me?* Ivypool nodded and closed her eyes, too exhausted to argue with him, no matter how much she wanted to. When she woke up, it was hard to crawl out from under the roots, but she managed to do it. She felt a sting on her side and frowned, feeling that she reopened part of her wound. *I've got to pick a better spot to sleep.* She thought with a sigh. Ivypool glanced around, smelling the air and hoping to find any traces of something. She didn't scent any prey at first, so she started walking in a random direction. Her legs felt stiff from sleeping in the small space but she figured they'd get used to walking again. "Okay, so I hear the thunderpath in front of me, so that means there won't be much prey around since they'll be scared. If I go the other way, I'll head into clan territory. If I follow the thunderpath, then I might find a good place to stay." She murmured, carefully trotting along the side of the thunderpath, making sure she wasn't too close. "For prey... I don't know. I guess I'll figure that out when I get there." She continued, walking at a faster pace. By sundown, the only thing she had found was an old rabbit carcass that had been hit by a monster. It didn't taste very good, but she figured it wouldn't be anything harmful. Sniffing the air, she smelled a badger, but it was very faint. "There's probably a den nearby." Ivypool muttered and followed the scent, hoping she could get there before nighttime.

Once she got there, she realized how much her paws hurt from walking. She didn't take any caution in stepping over small pebbles or sharp sticks, so there were cuts on her paw pads. Ivypool hastily scraped together a few leaves to make a nest and laid down to sleep. The morning felt like it came too early, and Ivypool did not wake up in a good mood. She was curled up due to her stomach hurting badly and any time she moved it would get worse. "Would it be better if I just left for StarClan? There's only peace up there, right?" She whispered, closing her eyes. "I'd get to see my dad again... and the kits that didn't have a chance at a future. I could apologize to them. I could make things right." Ivypool smiled to herself despite the pain, and waited. "Ivypool," a voice woke her from her slumber, and she frowned, not recognizing where she was. "Glad you could join us." She looked toward where the sound was coming from and narrowed her eyes. "Mapleshade." She hissed, quickly standing. "Ah, you might want to start saying my name with respect since you'll be saying it much more often." Mapleshade laughed softly, smirking as Ivypool stared at her in confusion. "I'm... dead? But why am I not in StarClan?" Ivypool murmured, looking around at the too-familiar forest. "You think they'd accept you? Ha, even if you saved a few cats, nobody there would want you to join them. You killed three kits, Ivypool. Your own *kin*." Ivypool backed up, shaking her head. "I have to make things right!" She snarled, searching for an exit. "There's no where you can run, Ivypool. You're one of us now, and you'd better accept it." Mapleshade snickered and started walking away. Ivypool looked to the blank sky in horror, seeing no stars to reassure her. "I'm stuck here," she spat. "I'm here until someone forgets about me. But nobody will because I'm the crazy ThunderClan cat who killed her kin, trained in the Dark Forest, and fell in love with a ShadowClan cat." Ivypool returned her gaze to the clearing in front of her, grinning. "And I'm going to enjoy it here."

Epilogue (A/N)

I don't really know how to start this, but I would like to put a thank you at the beginning.

As I've said before, I started this book when I was younger and didn't really know how Wattpad worked other than I could write a book and people could see it. I was deeply into the Warrior Cats fandom and read any book I could get my hands on. Most of the people who read this book (or started to) were like me, and I'm glad we had something in common. I really do appreciate everyone who has ever clicked on this book and I'm so glad I could make something that interested you.

However, I am no longer a huge fan like I was. I still appreciate the books and will read new ones that come out, but I won't be writing anything else that has to do with Warriors. Personally I think Erin Hunter is a great author and I recommend reading the books that she creates.

With that all being said, this book is completed, and I won't be posting anything else to it.

~Jay